

contribution to our knowledge of the avifauna of Central Asia, and has since been presented by him to the Indian Museum.

This species is at once distinguished from *Nesokia Huttoni* and *Spulacomys* (= *Nesokia*) *indicus* of Peters\* (which latter will in all probability turn out to be identical with one of the insufficiently described species of the genus) by the quality of the fur, by the totally naked condition and proportional length of the tail, by the greater length of the hands and feet, and by the greater size and breadth of the skull, mandible, and teeth.

P.S. In *Nesokia Huttoni* the incisors are much broader and thicker in males than in females.—*Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, April 1876.

*Mr. Hermann von Jhering on the Use of the Term "Homogeny."*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—Mr. Hermann von Jhering, of Göttingen, has recently published, in the 'Jahrbücher' of the German Malacozoological Society, an "Attempt to establish a Natural Classification of the Mollusca." The author has given much attention to the naked-eye anatomy of Mollusca, very little to their ontogeny, and has recently, in other journals ('Jenaische Zeitschrift' and 'Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool. '), in the most incomprehensible manner, misrepresented both the history and the facts of recent embryological researches (my own in particular) relative to these animals. Though Mr. Jhering is totally disqualified for treating the question of the molluscan pedigree from the point of view of ontogeny, and therefore wisely assigns a supreme importance to the comparative anatomy of adult forms, yet his 'Versuch' possesses considerable interest, and has the great merit of breaking with the old traditions as to classification.

Much as there is which is novel, as well as much which is the common property of all modern zoologists, in Mr. Jhering's paper, the reader is not always clearly informed as to which statements in it are new and which are taken from other writers. Mr. Jhering has taken from me the division of Homology into the two very distinct phenomena of Homogeny and Homoplasmy, which division I proposed in this Journal in the year 1870 ("On the Use of the term Homology in Modern Zoology"). Mr. Jhering says:—"Ich möchte für diese Homologie den Unternamen der Homogenie vorschlagen." He also gives the adjectival form "homogenetic." Mr. Jhering not only does not indicate distinctly that he has taken this word and the arguments which recommend its use from me, but he has the assurance to propose it as a brand-new idea of his own. The complementary term "Homoplasmy" is not appropriated by Mr. Jhering.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

E. RAY LANKESTER.

\* "Ueber einige merkwürdige Nagethiere des Königl. Zoologischen Museums," Abhandl. der Königl. Akad. der Wissensch. Berlin, 1860, p. 139 *et seqq.*